Pentagon Reports Garrison Service

WASHINGTON (AP) — The defense department said Friday James C. Garrison, New Orleans district attorney, "was released from active duty by reason of physical disability" in the rank of captain.

The pentagon said he was released Oct. 31, 1951, and that he served as a member of the National Guard on four separate occasions beginning with his enlistment in June, 1939, and ending with his resignation last Feb. 28.

"Information contained in personal, medical and similar files will not be released to the public without the written permission of the person concerned," the Defense Department said.

It added that the Army is "conducting an investigation to determine if any such information about James C. Garrison's service has been released from official Army sources."

Garrison has become a national storm-center through his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Garrison insists the killing in Dallas was the result of a conspiracy, hatched in part in New Orleans, and was not the deed of Lee Harvey Oswald, acting without confederates.

The Warren Commission which investigated the assassination named Oswald as the killer and said it found no evidence of a conspiracy.

In New Orleans, Chief As-

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sistant DA Charles R. Ward said Friday night that he feels there is "a snide inference" in the Defense Department's report on Garrison's military record.

("Jim Garrison is still a member of the U.S. Army Reserve and holds a commission as a lieutenant colonel," added Ward. "It is very unlikely that anyone with any psychological problem would be allowed to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel.")

The Pentagon said it has been queried by "numerous newsmen concerning the military background" of Garrison. In response, it issued this statement:

"James C. Garrison, currently a lieutenant colonel, United States Army Reserve, not on active duty, served as a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard and the National Guard of the United States on four separate occasions beginning with his initial enlistment in June, 1939, and terminating with his resignation on Feb. 28, 1967.

"He was a lieutenant colonel, National Guard of the United States, at the time of resignation. Automatically (and by law) he became a member of the United States Army Reserve at the time of resignation from the National Guard of the United States.

He was on duty as an enlisted man from Jan. 13, 1941, to June 22, 1942. He was commissioned on June 23, 1942, and served to March 1, 1946. He was stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla.; Camp Roberts, Calif.; Pecos, Tex.; Camp Rucker, Ala.; and the European theater of operations.

"He was separated at Ft. Dix, N. J. He was recalled to active duty on July 24, 1951, and served until Oct. 31, 1951. He was initially assigned to Ft. Sill, Okla. During the period August, 1951, to October, 951, he was assigned to the U.S. Army hospital, Ft. Sill, Okla., and to Brooke Army Hospital, Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.

"Published orders state that he was released from active duty by reason of physical disability in the grade of captain on Oct. 31, 1951.

"Information contained in personal, medical and similar files will not be released to the public without the written permission of the person concerned. The Army is conducting an investigation to determine if any such information about James C. Garrison's service has been released from official Army sources."